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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**SAN JOSE DIVISION**

SIMON LEE, on behalf of himself and all  
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

INTEL CORPORATION, a Delaware  
Corporation,

Defendant.

Case No.:

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

1 Plaintiff Simon Lee (“Plaintiff” or “Lee”), by and through his undersigned attorneys,  
2 bring this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated and allege the following,  
3 based upon personal knowledge as to himself and, in all other respects, based on publically  
4 available information, the investigation of counsel, and information and belief.

5 **I. INTRODUCTION**

6 1. This is a class action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of a class of all similarly  
7 situated purchasers of defective Intel x86-64x core processors (CPUs) manufactured and sold by  
8 Defendant Intel Corporation (“Defendant” or “Intel”). Despite knowing that the CPUs are  
9 defective, Defendant marketed and sold the CPUs to thousands of unsuspecting consumers,  
10 causing them to suffer damages.

11 2. Specifically, Defendant’s x86-64x CPUs suffer from a security defect, which  
12 causes the CPUs to be exposed to troubling security vulnerabilities by allowing potential access  
13 to extremely secure kernel data (the “Defect”). The only reported way to “fix” or “patch” this  
14 vulnerability requires extensive changes to the root levels of the Operating System which will  
15 dramatically reduce performance of the CPU. The Defect renders the Intel x86-64x CPUs unfit  
16 for their intended use and purpose.

17 3. The Defect exists in all Intel x86 architecture processors since 1995 and all other  
18 CPUs manufactured since at least 2008.<sup>1</sup> The x86-64x CPU is, and was, utilized in the majority  
19 of all desktop, laptop computers, and servers in the United States.

20 4. To date, Defendant has been unable or unwilling to repair the Defect or offer  
21 Plaintiff and Class members a non-defective CPU or reimbursement for the cost of such CPU  
22 and the consequential damages arising from the purchase and use of such CPUs. Indeed, there  
23 does not appear to be a true “fix” for the Defect. The security “patch,” while expected to cure  
24 the security vulnerabilities, will dramatically degrade the CPU’s performance. Therefore, the  
25 only “fix” would be to exchange the defective x86-64x processor with a device containing a  
26 processor not subject to this security vulnerability. In essence, Intel x86-64x CPU owners are

27 <sup>1</sup> [https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2018/01/03/intel-meltdown-spectre-](https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2018/01/03/intel-meltdown-spectre-vulnerabilities-leave-millions-open-to-cyber-attack/#1f76daf63932)  
28 [vulnerabilities-leave-millions-open-to-cyber-attack/#1f76daf63932](https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2018/01/03/intel-meltdown-spectre-vulnerabilities-leave-millions-open-to-cyber-attack/#1f76daf63932)

1 left with the unappealing choice of either purchasing a new processor or computer containing a  
2 CPU that does not contain the Defect, or continuing to use a computer with massive security  
3 vulnerabilities or one with significant performance degradation.

4 5. The CPUs Intel manufactured and sold to Plaintiff and Class members were not  
5 merchantable and were not fit for the ordinary and particular purposes for which such goods are  
6 used in that the CPUs suffer from a critical security defect, requiring an OS-level software patch  
7 that will degrade the performance of the CPU.

8 6. Plaintiff brings this suit to enjoin the unlawful marketing and sale of the  
9 defective CPUs by Defendant and for the damages Plaintiff and similarly situated purchasers  
10 have sustained as a result. Given the substantial quantity of defective CPUs that have been sold  
11 nationally, a class action is the proper vehicle for addressing Defendant's misconduct and for  
12 attaining needed relief for aggrieved consumers.

## 13 **II. PARTIES**

14 7. Plaintiff Simon Lee is, and at all relevant times was, a resident and citizen of the  
15 State of Arkansas. He purchased a MacBook in December 2015 from BestBuy and an iPad Pro  
16 in December 2017 from Verizon, both containing an Intel CPU. He was unaware of the Defect  
17 described herein prior to his purchase of the CPU products. Had Defendant disclosed such  
18 material facts, Plaintiff would not have purchased the CPU products or paid the price he did.

19 8. Defendant Intel Corporation is, and at all relevant times was, a citizen of the  
20 State of Delaware and of the State of California, as it is a corporation organized and existing  
21 under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in California.

## 22 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

23 9. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the Class  
24 Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 (a) and (d), because the amount in controversy  
25 exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and at least one member of the proposed  
26 class is a citizen of a state different from Defendant.

27 10. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because  
28

1 Defendant's improper conduct alleged in this complaint occurred in, was directed from, and  
 2 emanated from this judicial district. Defendant is also a citizen of the state of California with its  
 3 principal places of business in this District.

#### 4 **IV. COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

5 11. Intel describes itself as a world leader in the design and manufacture of any array  
 6 of technology products. Intel designs, manufactures and advertises its CPUs in this state, and in  
 7 fact nationally.

8 12. Intel sells hundreds of millions of CPUs. In the third quarter of its financial year  
 9 in 2014, Defendant sold over 100 million processors.<sup>2</sup>

#### 10 **The Defect**

11 13. On or about November 21, 2017, reports revealed that a large number of Intel  
 12 processors contain a serious design flaw that creates significant security vulnerabilities for any  
 13 device that uses Intel processors.<sup>3</sup>

14 14. The security flaw is in Intel's x86-64 hardware, which was first introduced in  
 15 2004, and is still in use in the majority of today's modern-day processors. The Defect is  
 16 believed to exist in almost every Intel processor made since at least 2004.

17 15. Intel's x86-64x processors are the most widely-used chips in virtually all desktop  
 18 and laptop computers, and are compatible with many computer operating systems including  
 19 Windows, Mac OSX and Linux. Intel processors are also used in most large, cloud based  
 20 services such as those from Google, Microsoft and Amazon.

21 16. Specifically, the Defect concerns security holes residing mainly in the feature  
 22 known as the "management engine" of the CPU. These security vulnerabilities pose a  
 23 significant threat in that they allow, among other things, the ability for hackers to load and run  
 24 unauthorized programs and malicious software, crash systems, impersonate system security  
 25 checks, and allow applications malware, and JavaScript running in web browsers to obtain  
 26 information they should not be allowed to access – namely, the contents of the operating system

27 <sup>2</sup> <http://www.tomshardware.com/news/intel-finance-record-revenue-3q13,27889.html>

28 <sup>3</sup> <http://fortune.com/2017/11/21/intel-core-cpu-security-minix/> (last visited January 5, 2018).

1 kernel's private memory areas.

2 17. The Defect allows hackers access to information such as passwords to accounts,  
3 security keys to encrypted files, and other computer information that computer users would  
4 expect to remain secure and confidential.

5 18. Reports have described that there are remedial measures purchasers can take to  
6 safeguard against the security vulnerabilities posed by the Defect. However, these remedial  
7 measures create what is known a performance hit, or drop off in the performance of the CPU.  
8 For instance, fixing the Defect using an OS-level software "patch" causes the CPU to slow  
9 down.

10 19. As *The Register* reported on January 2, 2018:

11 A fundamental design flaw in Intel's processor chips has forced a significant  
12 redesign of the Linux and Windows kernels to defang the chip-level security bug.

13 Programmers are scrambling to overhaul the open-source Linux kernel's virtual  
14 memory system. Meanwhile, Microsoft is expected to publicly introduce the  
15 necessary changes to its Windows operating system in an upcoming Patch  
16 Tuesday: these changes were seeded to beta testers running fast-ring Windows  
Insider builds in November and December.

17 Crucially, these updates to both Linux and Windows will incur a performance hit  
18 on Intel products. The effects are still being benchmarked, however we're looking  
19 at ***a ballpark figure of five to 30 per cent slow down***, depending on the task and  
20 the processor model. More recent Intel chips have features – such as PCID – to  
reduce the performance hit. [...]

21 Similar operating systems, such as Apple's 64-bit macOS, will also need to be  
22 updated – the flaw is in the Intel x86-64 hardware, and it appears a microcode  
23 update can't address it. ***It has to be fixed in software at the OS level, or go buy a***  
24 ***new processor without the design blunder.***

25 Details of the vulnerability within Intel's silicon are under wraps: an embargo on  
26 the specifics is due to lift early this month, perhaps in time for Microsoft's Patch  
27 Tuesday next week. Indeed, patches for the Linux kernel are available for all to

1 see but comments in the source code have been redacted to obfuscate the issue.<sup>4</sup>

2 20. The Defect's presence is material because fixing the Defect reduces the  
3 performance of the CPUs thereby causing the CPUs to slow down from the performance  
4 specifications that Defendant promised and that consumers expected when buying a computer  
5 product with an Intel CPU.

6 21. Plaintiff and the Class are damaged by this "performance hit" in processor speed  
7 financially. Purchasers pay a premium for enhanced processor speed, in the amount of hundreds  
8 or thousands of dollars.<sup>5</sup> By slowing down the CPU, its value degrades to that of a processor of  
9 that lower speed. This diminution of value to the CPU damages Plaintiff and all class members.  
10 The lessened value of the slowed CPU is calculated by a historical market comparison.

11 22. The Defect is also material because of the security vulnerabilities Intel based  
12 CPUs are exposed to.

13 23. As The Register article further explains:

14 Impact

15 It is understood the bug is present in modern Intel processors produced in the past  
16 decade. It allows normal user programs – from database applications to JavaScript  
17 in web browsers – to discern to some extent the layout or contents of protected  
kernel memory areas.

18 The fix is to separate the kernel's memory completely from user processes using  
19 what's called Kernel Page Table Isolation, or KPTI. [...]

20 Whenever a running program needs to do anything useful – such as write to a file  
21 or open a network connection – it has to temporarily hand control of the processor  
22 to the kernel to carry out the job. To make the transition from user mode to kernel  
23 mode and back to user mode as fast and efficient as possible, the kernel is present  
24 in all processes' virtual memory address spaces, although it is invisible to these  
25 programs. When the kernel is needed, the program makes a system call, the  
processor switches to kernel mode and enters the kernel. When it is done, the

26 <sup>4</sup> [https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/01/02/intel\\_cpu\\_design\\_flaw/](https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/01/02/intel_cpu_design_flaw/) (last visited January 5,  
27 2018) (emphasis added).

28 <sup>5</sup> <http://www.techradar.com/news/best-processors>

1 CPU is told to switch back to user mode, and reenter the process. While in user  
2 mode, the kernel's code and data remains out of sight but present in the process's  
3 page tables. [...]

4 These KPTI patches move the kernel into a completely separate address space, so  
5 it's not just invisible to a running process, it's not even there at all. Really, this  
6 shouldn't be needed, but clearly there is a flaw in Intel's silicon that allows kernel  
access protections to be bypassed in some way.

7 The downside to this separation is that it is relatively expensive, time wise, to  
8 keep switching between two separate address spaces for every system call and for  
9 every interrupt from the hardware. These context switches do not happen  
10 instantly, and they force the processor to dump cached data and reload  
11 information from memory. ***This increases the kernel's overhead, and slows  
down the computer.***

12 ***Your Intel-powered machine will run slower as a result.***<sup>6</sup>

13  
14 24. In an effort to run as quickly as possible, Intel processors run something called  
15 "speculative execution." In essence, the processor attempts to guess what operation is going to  
16 be run next so that code can be standing by, ready to execute. When the processor selects what  
17 it believes is the next operation, it will fetch the code(s) needed to carry out that operation and  
18 have the code(s) on standby. However, Intel's "speculative execute" code may "fetch" secure  
19 codes without first performing a security check which would block such a request. So an  
20 innocuous program such as Javascript might be exploited to gain access to extremely secure  
21 kernel data. Or as the *The Register* writes, "[t]hat would allow ring-3-level user code to read  
22 ring-0-level kernel data. And that is not good."<sup>7</sup>

23 25. The Defect is material because neither Plaintiff, Class members, nor any  
24 reasonable consumer would have purchased the defective Intel CPUs at the prices that they did

25 <sup>6</sup> *Id.* (emphasis added).

26 <sup>7</sup> [https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/01/02/intel\\_cpu\\_design\\_flaw/](https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/01/02/intel_cpu_design_flaw/) (last visited January 5,  
27 2018).

1 had they known or had they been told by Intel or its retail agents about the Defect prior to  
2 purchase.

3 26. The Defect is unprecedented in scope in that it exposes millions and millions of  
4 Intel-based computers to critical security vulnerabilities and hacking and the “patch” to cure  
5 these security vulnerabilities will result in substantial performance degradation.

6 **Intel Admits the Defect Exists**

7 27. Intel is aware that its CPUs suffer from the Defect that exposes the CPUs to  
8 critical security vulnerabilities and that proposed OS-level software patches will slow the  
9 performance of these CPU chips.

10 28. On January 3, 2018, Intel issued a press release in response to the myriad news  
11 media reports concerning the Defect, stating:

12 Intel Responds to Security Research Findings

13 Intel and other technology companies have been made aware of new security  
14 research describing software analysis methods that, when used for malicious  
15 purposes, have the potential to improperly gather sensitive data from computing  
16 devices that are operating as designed. Intel believes these exploits do not have  
17 the potential to corrupt, modify or delete data.

18 Recent reports that these exploits are caused by a “bug” or a “flaw” and are  
19 unique to Intel products are incorrect. Based on the analysis to date, many types  
20 of computing devices — with many different vendors’ processors and operating  
21 systems — are susceptible to these exploits.

22 Intel is committed to product and customer security and is working closely with  
23 many other technology companies, including AMD, ARM Holdings and several  
24 operating system vendors, to develop an industry-wide approach to resolve this  
25 issue promptly and constructively. Intel has begun providing software and  
26 firmware updates to mitigate these exploits. Contrary to some reports, any  
27 performance impacts are workload-dependent, and, for the average computer user,  
28 should not be significant and will be mitigated over time.

Intel is committed to the industry best practice of responsible disclosure of  
potential security issues, which is why Intel and other vendors had planned to



1 disclose this issue next week when more software and firmware updates will be  
 2 available. However, Intel is making this statement today because of the current  
 3 inaccurate media reports.

4 Check with your operating system vendor or system manufacturer and apply any  
 5 available updates as soon as they are available. Following good security practices  
 6 that protect against malware in general will also help protect against possible  
 7 exploitation until updates can be applied.

8 Intel believes its products are the most secure in the world and that, with the  
 9 support of its partners, the current solutions to this issue provide the best possible  
 10 security for its customers.<sup>8</sup>

11 29. Defendant's press release acknowledges the existence of the Defect, claims other  
 12 vendors (competitors) products also suffer from this Defect, and downplays the performance  
 13 impact which it claims "will be mitigated over time." Defendant also contends that its defective  
 14 chips are "operating as designed" but the design itself is inadequate and insecure.

15 30. Intel has failed to cure the Defect or replace Plaintiff's Intel CPUs with non-  
 16 defective CPUs and offer full compensation required under federal and state law. Intel has not  
 17 issued a recall of the defective CPUs.

18 31. As discussed previously, any "fix" would require extensive changes at the root  
 19 levels of OS software, which would assuredly impact the performance of Intel processor-based  
 20 machines.

21 32. More importantly, any "fix" would not only directly impact the performance of a  
 22 particular user's Intel-based device, but have indirect performance impacts. Countless servers  
 23 that run internet-connected services in a cloud will see a dramatic degradation in performance,  
 24 which will have a downstream impact to all users of these servers. Thus, cloud-based services  
 25 like Microsoft, Google, and Amazon will see performance degradation.

26 <sup>8</sup> (*Intel Refutes Chip "Bug," "Inaccurate Media Reports,"* Barrons,  
 27 <https://www.barrons.com/articles/intel-refutes-chip-bug-inaccurate-media-reports-1515010736>  
 28 (last visited Jan. 5, 2018).)

1 **V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

2 33. The claims of all members of the Class derive directly from a single course of  
 3 conduct on the part of Intel. Intel has engaged, and continues to engage, in uniform and  
 4 standardized conduct, the omission of material information from the Class. Intel does not  
 5 differentiate, in degree of care or candor, its actions or inactions, or the content of its omissions,  
 6 among individual members of the Class. Accordingly, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit as a class  
 7 action on his own behalf and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated as members of the  
 8 proposed Class pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(1) and/or (b)(2) and/or (b)(3). This  
 9 action satisfies the numerosity, commonality, typicality, adequacy, predominance, and  
 10 superiority requirements of those provisions.

11 34. Plaintiff brings this action and seek to certify and maintain it as a class action  
 12 under Rules 23(a); (b)(1) and/or (b)(2); and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on  
 13 their behalf and on behalf of the following Class:

14 All individuals or entities who purchased one or more Intel CPUs from Intel  
 15 and/or its authorized retailer sellers.

16 35. The following persons are excluded from the Class: Defendant; any affiliate,  
 17 parent, or subsidiary of Defendant; any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest; any  
 18 officer, director, or employee of Defendant; any successor or assign of Defendant; counsel for  
 19 Plaintiff or anyone employed by counsel for Plaintiff in this action and their immediate family;  
 20 and any Judge to whom this case is assigned and his or her immediate family and staff.

21 36. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or modify the Class definition in connection  
 22 with a motion for class certification and/or the result of discovery.

23 37. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained on behalf of the  
 24 Class proposed above under the criteria of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

25 38. **Numerosity.** This action satisfies the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1).  
 26 Class is so numerous that joinder of the individual members of the proposed Class is  
 27 impracticable. The Class includes thousands, perhaps millions, of persons geographically

dispersed throughout the United States. The precise number and identities of Class members are unknown to Plaintiff, but are known to Defendant or can be ascertained through discovery, using records of sales, warranty records, and other information kept by Defendant or its agents. Plaintiff anticipates providing appropriate notice to the Class, in compliance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(1)(2)(A) and/or (B), to be approved by the Court after class certification, or pursuant to court order under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(d).

39. **Existence and predominance of common questions.** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over questions affecting only individual members of the Class members as is required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2). These common questions include the following:

- a. Whether Defendant engaged in the conduct alleged herein;
- b. Whether Defendant's CPUs possess the Defect;
- c. Whether Defendant made any implied warranties in connection with the sale of the defective CPUs;
- d. Whether Defendant breached any implied warranties relating to its sale of defective CPUs by failing to resolve the Defect in a manner required by law;
- e. Whether Defendant violated applicable consumer protection laws by selling CPUs with the Defect and/or by failing to disclose the Defect, and failing to provide the relief required by law;
- f. Whether, by omitting material information that it had a duty to disclose, Defendant falsely advertised, marketed, and sold Dedicated Server services;
- g. Whether Defendant violated Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 by failing to disclose or concealing material facts as described herein;
- h. Whether Defendant violated Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 by failing to disclose or concealing material facts as described herein;
- i. Whether Defendant is liable to the Class for damages and/or penalties, as a result of their own knowledge, conduct, action, or inaction, and if so, in what

1 amount; and

2 j. Whether Plaintiff and the other members of the Class are entitled to  
3 equitable relief, including but not limited to restitution or a preliminary and/or  
4 permanent injunction.

5 40. **Typicality.** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class as required by  
6 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3), because, among other things, Plaintiff purchased a defective CPU and  
7 Plaintiff's claims are based on the same factual and legal theories as the Class.

8 41. **Adequacy.** Plaintiff is an adequate representative because his interests do not  
9 conflict with the interests of the members of the Class he seeks to represent. Plaintiff has  
10 retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class action litigation, and Plaintiff  
11 intends to prosecute this action vigorously. The interests of the members of Class will be fairly  
12 and adequately protected by Plaintiff and his counsel. As such, Plaintiff meets the requirements  
13 of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4).

14 42. **Declaratory and Injunctive Relief.** Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2): Defendant has  
15 acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiff and the other members of the  
16 Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and declaratory relief, as described  
17 below, with respect to the Class as a whole.

18 43. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and  
19 efficient adjudication of this dispute. The injury suffered by each member of the Class, while  
20 meaningful on an individual basis, is not of such magnitude as to make the prosecution of  
21 individual actions against Defendant economically feasible. Even if members of the Class  
22 themselves could afford such individualized litigation, the court system could not. In addition to  
23 the burden and expense of managing many actions arising from the design defect,  
24 individualized litigation presents a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments.  
25 Individualized litigation increases the delay and expense to all parties and the court system  
26 presented by the legal and factual issues of the case. By contrast, the class action device  
27 presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication,

economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

44. In the alternative, the Class may be certified because:

a. the prosecution of separate actions by the individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudication with respect to individual members of the Class;

b. the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create varying standards of conduct required of the Defendant;

c. the prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members of the Class not parties to the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests; and

d. Defendant has acted, or refused to act on, grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final and injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

## **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

### **COUNT I**

#### **BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY**

45. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above as if set forth fully herein.

46. Defendant and its authorized agents and resellers sold Intel CPUs to Plaintiff and Class members in the regular course of business.

47. Defendant impliedly warranted to members of the general public, including Plaintiff and Class members, these CPUs were of merchantable quality (*i.e.*, a product of a high enough quality to make it fit for sale, usable for the purpose it is made, of average worth in the marketplace, or not broken, unworkable, damaged, contaminated or flawed), was of the same quality as those generally acceptable in the trade or that would pass without objection in the

1 trade, were free from material defects and were reasonably fit for the ordinary purposes for  
2 which they were intended or used. In addition, Defendant either was or should have been aware  
3 of the particular purposes for which such CPUs are used, and that Plaintiff and the Class  
4 members were relying on the skill and judgment of Defendant to furnish suitable goods for such  
5 purpose.

6 48. Pursuant to agreements between Defendant and its authorized agents and re-  
7 sellers, the stores Plaintiff and Class members purchased their defective Intel CPUs from are  
8 authorized retailers and authorized CPU service facilities. Plaintiff and Class members are third-  
9 party beneficiaries of, and substantially benefited from, such contracts.

10 49. Defendant breached its implied warranties by selling Plaintiff and Class  
11 members defective Intel CPUs. The Defect renders the Intel CPUs unmerchantable and unfit for  
12 their ordinary or particular use or purpose. Defendant has refused to recall, repair or replace,  
13 free of charge, all Intel CPUs or any of their defective component parts or refund the prices paid  
14 for such CPUs.

15 50. The Defect in the Intel CPUs existed when the CPUs left Defendant's and their  
16 authorized agents' and retail sellers' possession and thus is inherent in such CPUs.

17 51. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach of its implied warranties,  
18 Plaintiff and Class members have suffered damages and continue to suffer damages, including  
19 economic damages at the point of sale in terms of the difference between the value of the CPUs  
20 as warranted and the value of the CPUs as delivered. Additionally, Plaintiff and Class members  
21 either have or will incur economic, incidental and consequential damages in the cost of repair or  
22 replacement and costs of complying with continued contractual obligations as well as the cost of  
23 buying an additional CPU they would not have purchased had the CPUs in question not  
24 contained the non-repairable Defect.

25 52. Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to legal and equitable relief against  
26 Defendant, including damages, specific performance, rescission, attorneys' fees, costs of suit,  
27 and other relief as appropriate.

**COUNT II**

**VIOLATION OF CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT**

**(California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*)**

53. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above as if set forth fully herein.

54. Plaintiff assert this claim individually and on behalf of all Class members under California Civil Code §1781.

55. The Consumers Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”) was enacted to protect consumers against unfair and deceptive business practices. The CLRA applies to Defendant’s acts and practices because it covers transactions involving the sale of goods to consumers.

56. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 provides:

It is unlawful for any . . . corporation . . . with intent directly or indirectly to dispose of real or personal property or to perform services, professional or otherwise,. . . to induce the public to enter into any obligation relating thereto, to make or disseminate or cause to be made or disseminated . . . from this state before the public in any state, in any newspaper or other publication, or any advertising device, . . . or in any other manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any statement . . . which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.

57. The Intel CPUs are “goods” under California Civil Code §1761(a).

58. Intel is a “person” under California Civil Code §1761(c).

59. Plaintiff and the Class members are “consumers” under California Civil Code §1761(d).

60. Plaintiff and Class members engaged in “transactions” under California Civil Code §1761(e), including the purchase of Intel CPUs and the presentation of Intel CPUs for repair or replacement of the Defect.

61. Intel’s unfair and deceptive business practices were intended and did result in the sale of Intel CPUs, a defective consumer product.

62. Defendant’s Intel CPUs failed to perform in accordance with their expected

characteristics, uses and benefits.

63. Defendant had exclusive knowledge of material facts, *i.e.* the Intel CPUs were defective, unknown to Plaintiff and Class members. If Plaintiff and Class members had known of the Defect in the Intel CPU, they would not have purchased the CPUs at the prices they did, if at all.

64. Defendant had a duty to disclose the Defect in the Intel CPU for various reasons, including:

a. Intel had exclusive knowledge of the Defect and other material facts not known to Plaintiff or the Class; and

b. Intel actively concealed material facts from Plaintiff and the Class.

65. Defendant engaged in unfair and deceptive practices by misrepresenting or not disclosing the above material facts from Plaintiff and the Class, in violation of Cal. Civ. Code §1770(a)(5), (7), (14) and (16).

66. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class members suffered injury. Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to injunctive relief, any money Defendant acquired by unfair competition, including restitution and/or restitutionary disgorgement, court costs and attorney fees, and other relief the Court deems proper.

67. Under the requirements of California Civil Code §1782(a), Plaintiff's will serve on Defendants, shortly after the filing of this Complaint, a CLRA notice letter. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to assert claims for additional relief under the CLRA in the event Defendants do not rectify these issues within the appropriate time period outlined in the CLRA.

### COUNT III

#### VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW

(California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*)

68. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above as if set forth fully herein.

69. Defendant's business acts and practices complained of were centered in, carried



1 out, effectuated and perfected within the State of California, and injured Plaintiff and all Class  
2 members.

3 70. Beginning as early as 2008, and continuing thereafter at least up through and  
4 including the date of filing this Complaint, Defendant committed acts of unfair competition, as  
5 defined by §17200, *et seq.*, of the California Business and Professions Code, by engaging in the  
6 acts and practices specified above.

7 71. This claim is brought pursuant to §§17203 and 17204 of the California Business  
8 and Professions Code to obtain equitable monetary and injunctive relief from Defendant for acts  
9 and practices as alleged herein that violated §17200 of the California Business and Professions  
10 Code, commonly known as the Unfair Competition Law.

11 72. Defendant's conduct as alleged herein violated §17200. The acts, omissions,  
12 practices and non-disclosures of Defendant constituted a common continuous course of conduct  
13 of unfair competition by means of the commission of unfair and unlawful business acts or  
14 practices within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code, §17200, *et seq.*

15 73. Defendant engaged in "unlawful" business acts and practices by:

16 a. breaching implied warranties;

17 b. violating the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §1750,  
18 *et seq.*;

19 c. negligently misrepresenting its products; and

20 d. unjustly enriching itself at the cost of its consumers.

21 74. Defendant engaged in "unfair" business acts and practices by, among other  
22 things:

23 a. engaging in conduct where the utility of such conduct, if any, is outweighed  
24 by the gravity of the consequences to Plaintiff and the Class considering the reasonably  
25 available alternatives, based on legislatively declared policies not to sell defective  
26 products in the market without providing an adequate remedy;

27 b. engaging in conduct that is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, or  
28

1 substantially injurious to Plaintiff and the Class; and

2 c. engaging in unfair business practices by refusing to repair or recall the  
3 defective Intel CPUs or providing compensation therefor.

4 75. Specifically, Defendant engaged in “unfair” business acts and practices by  
5 selling the Intel CPUs knowing or being aware the CPUs contained a critical security Defect,  
6 where any “fix” would degrade the processors performance. Defendant also engaged in unfair  
7 business acts and practices by making express and implied warranties, which it refuses to honor.

8 76. As such conduct is or may well be continuing and on-going, Plaintiff and each of  
9 the Class members are entitled to injunctive relief to prohibit or correct such on-going acts of  
10 unfair competition, in addition to obtaining equitable monetary relief.

11 77. Plaintiff and Class members used Defendant’s products and had business  
12 dealings with Defendant either directly or indirectly as described above. The acts and practices  
13 of Defendant have caused Plaintiff and Class members to lose money and property by being  
14 overcharged for and paying for the defective CPUs at issue, or being required to purchase an  
15 additional working CPU. Such loss was the result of the above acts of unfair competition and  
16 Defendant’s misconduct in violation of the state laws set forth above. Plaintiff are therefore  
17 entitled to seek recovery of such amounts. Such injury occurred at the time such monies were  
18 paid. Plaintiff and Class members have thus suffered injury in fact and lost money or property  
19 as a result of such acts and practices as set forth in detail above.

20 78. Defendant has unjustly benefited as a result of its wrongful conduct and its acts  
21 of unfair competition. Plaintiff and Class members are accordingly entitled to equitable relief  
22 including restitution and/or restitutionary disgorgement of all revenues, earnings, profits,  
23 compensation, and benefits that may have been obtained by Defendant as a result of such  
24 business acts and practices, pursuant to California Business and Professions Code §§17203 and  
25 17204, as well as attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to, among others, California Code of Civil  
26 Procedure §1021.5.

**COUNT IV**

**NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

79. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above as if set forth fully herein.

80. Defendant had a duty to provide honest and accurate information to consumers so that consumers could make informed decisions regarding the purchase of Intel CPUs.

81. Defendant had exclusive knowledge of the material information concerning the Defect, as set forth in detail above.

82. Defendant suppressed and omitted the material information concerning the Defect as detailed above.

83. Defendant knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known, that consumers would be misled by the omission of this material information.

84. Defendant actively and intentionally omitted these material facts, in whole or in part, with the intent to induce consumers into purchasing defective Intel CPUs.

85. Plaintiff and Class members were unaware of the omitted material facts and would not have acted as they did if they had known of the omitted facts. Had they known these facts, they would not have purchased the defective Intel CPUs at the prices they paid.

86. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant's omission of material facts proximately caused Plaintiff and members of the Class to sustain damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

**COUNT V**

**UNJUST ENRICHMENT AND COMMON LAW RESTITUTION**

87. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above as if set forth fully herein.

88. As a result of Defendant's wrongful and unlawful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class members have suffered a detriment while Defendant has received a benefit.

89. By virtue of the purchase and sale of the CPUs in question, Defendant alternatively entered into a series of implied-at-law or quasi-contracts that resulted in money

being had and received by Defendant, either directly or indirectly, at the expense of Plaintiff and Class members under agreements in assumpsit. Plaintiff and other Class members conferred a benefit upon Defendant by purchasing one of the defective CPUs. Defendant had knowledge of the general receipt of such benefits, which Defendant received, accepted and retained. Defendant owes Plaintiff and Class members these sums that can be obtained either directly from Class members, Defendant or its authorized retailers.

90. Defendant has received and retained funds properly payable to the Plaintiff and Class members under such circumstances that in equity and good conscience Defendant ought not to retain those funds.

91. Defendant should be required to pay the improperly received and retained funds, with interest thereon, to the Plaintiff and Class members. Based on the facts and circumstances alleged above, in order to prevent unjust enrichment and to prevent Defendant from taking advantage of its own wrongdoing, Plaintiff and the Class are further entitled to the establishment of a constructive trust, in a sum certain, of all monies charged and collected or retained by Defendant from which Plaintiff and Class members may seek restitution.

## **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff and the proposed Class pray for judgment as follows:

1. For an order certifying this action as a class action;
2. For an order appointing Plaintiff as representative of the Class and his counsel of record as Class counsel;
3. For an award of actual, general, special, incidental, statutory, compensatory, and consequential damages in an amount to be proven at trial;
4. Under Counts I and IV, for an award of exemplary and punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial;
5. Under Counts II, III, and V, For an order requiring Defendant to disgorge, restore, and return all monies wrongfully obtained together with interest calculated at the maximum legal rate;

6. For an order enjoining the wrongful conduct alleged herein;
7. For costs;
8. For interest;
9. For attorneys' fees under applicable law; and
10. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**VIII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demand a jury trial for all claims so triable.

Dated: January 10, 2018

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